

Message Text

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XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7956

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 4092

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: MARKED EFFORT TO STRESS POSITIVE IN US- SOVIET RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES ARE STRUCK BY EXTENT TO WHICH SOVIETS, PARTICULARLY IN PUBLIC MEDIA, HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY RECENTLY TO PLAY UP POSITIVE IN US - SOVIET RELATIONS AND BRUSH DEVELOPMENTS WITH NEGATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS UNDER TO RUG. TO THE EXTENT THEY FEEL NEED TO KEEP UP THE " IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE," SOVIETS ARE DOING SO WITH SNIDE SWIPES AT " AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE" RATHER THAN U. S. POLICY. UPSURGED OF FAVORABLE COMMENT ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION IS DOUBTLESSLY MOTIVATED IN PART BY DESIRE TO SIGNAL SATISFACTION OVER ACTUAL DEVELOPMENTS (VISITS IN ECONOMIC FIELD, SIGNING OF EX- IM CREDITS), TO HOLD OUT HOPES FOR AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING FOR SOVIET POPULATION AND TO BEGIN PROGAGANDA PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT TO U. S. IT MAY ALSO BE AIMED AT THOSE ELEMENTS IN PARTY AND BUREAUCRACY WHO FEEL UNEASY ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF NOTE OF RAPPROACHEMENT WITH U. S. IF REPORTS ARE CORRECT THAT UPCOMING PARTY LIENUM WILL BE DEVOTED TO

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" TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION," BREZHNEV MAY, BY FOCUSSING
ON NEED TO GET WESTERN TEHCNOLOGY , BE PLANNING TO COUNTER
CRITICS WHO MIGHT SEEK TO RESTRICT HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION
IN ADVANCE OF HIS U. S. AND FRG TRIPS. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT REPORTING OF " AGGRESSIVE" ASPECTS OF U. S.
POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN
NOTICEABLY LOW KEY AND PRO FORMA. ALTHOUGH SOVIET PRESS HAS
NOTED BRIEFLY JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE " THREAT S" TO SOVIET CULTURAL
ACTIVITIES IN U. S. AND HAS ALLEGED THAT EFFORTS OF SENATOR JACKSONS' S
SUPPORTERES ARE DESIGNED TO REVERSE PRESENT TRENT IN US- SOVIET
RELATIONS, SOVIET READER IS ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THESE ARE
ESSENTIALLY ISOLATED PHENOMENA IN COUNTRY WHOSE POPULATION
RECENTLY INDICATED BY GALLUP POLL THAT IS OVERSHELMINGLY SUPPORTS
IMPROVEMENT IN US- SOVIET RELATIONS.

3. THE VOLUME AND REGULARITY OF FAVORABLE COMMENT ON
RELATIONS WITH U. S. IS STRIKING. TWO- PAGE NEW TIMES APRIL 6
STORY ENTITLED " HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS" PROVIDED EXTENSIVE
REVIEW OF RECENT US- SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN REALM OF SPORTS,
SPACE, BUSINESS, SCIENCE- TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE. THESE
SAME DEVELOPMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY IN THE
SOVIET PRESS, WHILE REGULAR EVENING TV SHOW, VREMYA HAS
CARRIED NUMEROUD FILM CLIPS OF SOVIET- AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS
IN BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN
RARELY SEEN HUMAN INTEREST STORIES TI ILLUSTRATE " GROWING
FRIENDLINESS OF AMERICANS TOWARD SOVIET PEOPLE , " (E. G.,
COVERING RECEPTION OF SOVIET GYMNASTS, NY TIMES ROUNDUP OF
RUSSIAN COOKING RECIPES, AMERICAN LEGION RELATIONS WITH
SOVIET WAR VETRANS, HISTROY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG, FLYING
OF SOVIET FLAG IN U. S. , ETC.). APRIL 6 PRAVDA REPORTED
FURTSEVA' FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON MUTUAL CULTURAL RELATIONS
WHILE TOW NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON THE
SCHEUDLED ARENA STAGE VISIT TO USSR. AND APRIL 8 KOMSOMOL-
SKAYA PRAVDA ATYPICALLY REMARKED THAT DEEPENING
CONTACTS ARE " PROFF THAT AGREEMENT BETWEEN USSR AND USA
ARE BING SUCCESSFULLY REALIZED IN TEH VERY WIDEST FIELDS."
FINALLY, SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO SINGLE OUT SECTIONS
FROM PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS IN PRASIE OF US- SOVIET RELATIONS,
E. G., ACDA REPORT TO CONGRESS.

4. BULK OF COMMENTARIS HIGHLIGHT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED
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ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WITH NOTICEABLE ABSENCE OF HITHERTO

COMMON WARNING ABOUT EXISTANCE OF OPPOSITION IN U. S. TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. IZVESTIYA'S CORRESPONDENT (MAR. 30) DESCRIBED GREAT INTEREST OF MEN SUCH AS MAYOR YORTY IN TRADE WITH USSR (AND IN SEEING BRANCH OFFICE OF SOVIET CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELESE) AND CONCLUDED THAT THOSE AMERICANS WHO PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED DOING BUSINESS WITH SOVIETS ARE NOW IN FAVOR OF IT. MARCH 31 TRUD CARRIED REMARKS OF FOREIGN TRADE BANK DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MAKEYEV ON RECENT NAM- SPONSORED TRADE CONFERENCE AND EXPORT- IMPORT BANK CREDIT AGREEMENTS, AND HIS CONCLUSION THAT THESE AGREEMENTS ARE " ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A NEW STAGE IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS." MOST SIGNIFICANT BOOST FOR SOVIET- AMERICAN TRADE WAS PROVIDED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV IN LENGTHY APRIL 3 PRAVDA REPORT ON CREDIT AGREEMENTS WITH U. S. AND PROSPECTS FOR JOINT PROJECTS IN AREA OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTION, JOINT PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, ETC. IN SIMILAR VEIN, APRIL 10 PRAVDA CARRIED LONG INTERVIEW WITH SAMUEL PISAR ENTITLED, " TRADE- WEAPONS OF PEACE" (ALSO BROADCAST ON RADIO). LATEST ISSUE OF ZA RUBEZHOM, APRIL 6-12 , ALSO CONTAINS FIVE- PAGE COMPLI A- TION OF FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTARY UNDER THE HEADING , " USSR- USA: WIDENING OF BUSINESS COOPERATION FOR GOOD OF PEACE."

5. SIMPLEST EXPLANATION FOR PRESENT UPSURGE IN FAVORABLE PRESS COMENT IS THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS PLEASED AND REASSURED BY ADMINISTRATION'S DEMONSTRATED DETERMINATION TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS AT SUMMIT, NOTABLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD, NOWITHSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. IT WISHES TO SIGNAL ITS SATISFACTION TO U. S. AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO SOVIET PEOPLE THAT, WITH VIETNAM WAR OUT OF WAY, US- SOVIET RELATIONS CAN, IN FACT, TAKE QUALITATIVE STEP FORWARD, AS BREZHNEV SUGGESTED LAST DECEMBER. WITH BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN RECEIVING BUILD- UP IN SOVIET PRESS, MOSCOW MAY ALSO WISH TO PREPARE PUBLIC FOR VISIT TO U. S. -- AT SOME RISK OF CREATING UNDUE EXPECTATIONS.

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6. ABOVE MAY BE, HOWEVER, ONLY PARTIAL EXPLANATION. ONCE AGAIN, SOVIETS LEADERS APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO CONVINCE SOMEONE THAT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH U. S. IS BOTH A REALISTIC PROSPECT AND IN INTEREST OF SOVIET PEOPLE AND WORLD PEACE. DIRECTOR USA INSTITUTE ARBATOV HAS BEEN MOST SOPHISTICATED RATIONALIZER OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN U. S. - SOVIET RELATIONS, AND FACT THAT PARTY SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO REPRINT HIS LATEST ARTICLE IN ITS JOURNAL (KOMMUNIST ISSUE NO. 3) RATHER THAN INSTITUTE'S MORE RESTRICTED CIRCULATION JOURNAL, SUGGESTS CONTINUED FELT NEED TO PROVIDE IDEOLOGICALLY PERSUASIVE EXPLANATION TO PARTY MEMBERS WHY THERE SHOULD NOW BE CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR TOWARD " US IMPERIALISTS", MAKING AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS A REALISTIC PROSPECT. HIS CURIOUS STATEMENT AT ONE POINT IN OTHERWISE FAMILIAR ARGUMENT " ONE SHOULD NOT DOUBT" THAT ANY CHANGES IN BALANCE OF FORCES IN FAVOR OF IMPERIALISM WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN TENSION RATHER THAN DETENTE -- IMPLIED THAT SOME CRITICS MAY BE ARGUING THAT BREZHNEV'S DETENTE POLICY IS NOT RESULT OF RELATIVE INCREASE IN SOVIET STRENGTH VIS- A- VIS IMPERIALISM (AS OFFICIAL LINE RUNS) BUT RATHER OF SOVIET WEAKNESS.

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PAGTHE ALL CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION, BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY CONFIRMATION OF THE DURATION OF THE VISIT.

4. THE AMERICAN BASKETBALL DELEGATION WILL TOTAL BETWEEN FORTY- FIVE AND FIFTY PERSONS, INCLUDING PLAYERS OF BOTH TEAMS, OFFICIALS, TRAINERS, REFEREES, MEDICAL DOCTOR, LEADERS OF THE TWO INSTITUTIONS THAT THE TEAMS REPRESENT, ESCORTS, INTERPRETERS, AND WIVES OF DELEGATION LEADERS.

5. THE SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM BEING ORGANIZED BY PETER DALAND, FORMER US OLYMPIC MEN' S AND WOMEN' S SWIMMING COACH, WILL INCLUDE ABOUT FIFTEEN PERSONS. IT WILL INCLUDE

FORMER OLYMPIC AND US CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMERS AND DIVERS
PROFICIENT IN ALL EVENTS. GENERALLY THEY WILL BE SWIMMERS
WHO HAVE WITHDRAWN RECENTLY FROM INTERNATIONAL RACING, AND
WILL NOT BE PREPARED FOR COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCE EQUAL TO
PREVIOUS RECORD LEVELS. THEY WILL HOPE INSTEAD FOR
FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION WITH CHINESE SWIMMERS AND DIVERS,
INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS OF TECHNIQUES, COACHING, AND
DISCUSSION OF METHODS USED IN US FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL
PROGRAMS IN SWIMMING FOR YOUNG AGE LEVELS. THESE METHODS
RESULT IN EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TALENTED
SWIMMERS.

6. THE SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ENTER
THE PRC ON OR ABOUT JUNE 1.

7. WE SHALL PROVIDE FULL NAME LISTS OF BOTH THE SWIMMING
AND BASKETBALL DELEGATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE NATIONAL
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COMMITTEE ON US- CHINA RELATIONS WILL ALSO INTRODUCE THE
LEADERS OF THE BASKETBALL AND SWIMMING DELEGATIONS TO THE
PRC UN MISSION FOR MORE DIRECT DISCUSSION OF DETAILS.
HOWEVER, WE REQUEST AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE CONFIRMATION
THROUGH PARIS WHETHER THE PROPOSED DATES OF ARRIVAL IN
THE PRC ARE ACCEPTABLE.

8. THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA IS TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO
DEPART PHILADELPHIA SEPTEMBER 3, AND MUST RETURN TO
PHILADELPHIA NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 23. THEY UNDERSTAND
AND APPRECIATE THE PRC ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF THE
ORCHESTRA'S VISIT, BUT REQUEST CONFIRMATION AS EARLY AS
POSSIBLE, PERHAPS THROUGH NEW YORK, OF THE EXACT DATES FOR
ENTRY AND DEPARTURE FROM THE PRC, AND THE NUMBER OF
CONCERTS EXPECTED. ROGERS

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